

Faculty/Staff Summer Reading – FEC Groups

All faculty and staff are to choose one book from this list to read over the summer. The book will be discussed in a small group during the Aug. 14 FEC in-service. The discussion is scheduled for one hour and groups will be asked to share important points from the discussion at the fall divisional meetings. You will be asked to sign up for one book by Survey Monkey beginning on May 20.

One book will be provided by the school. There will be paper copies available on May 24. If we run out of copies, or if you prefer to purchase your book in electronic format, you need to order your own copy. You will be reimbursed for one book if you bring a receipt to the Business Office.

Questions- Ask FEC members: Debby Jennings, Melodee Halbach, Dan Bloch, Joni Heinzelmann, Missi Kovachev, Aimee Jenkins, Stacey Cherry, Andreanne Annis, Stephen Dickey or Spencer Smith.

Book Choices:

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Won't Stop Talking by Susan Cain

Facilitator: Killian Naylor

In *Quiet*, Susan Cain argues that we dramatically undervalue introverts and shows how much we lose in doing so. She charts the rise of the Extrovert Ideal throughout the twentieth century and explores how deeply it has come to permeate our culture. She also introduces us to successful introverts—from a witty, high-octane public speaker who recharges in solitude after his talks, to a record-breaking salesman who quietly taps into the power of questions. Passionately argued, superbly researched, and filled with indelible stories of real people, *Quiet* has the power to permanently change how we see introverts and, equally important, how they see themselves. (Amazon.com)

Guided Inquiry: Learning in the 21st Century

Facilitators: Debby Jennings and Tammy Wolford

Noted researcher Kuhlthau has teamed up with a curriculum specialist and museum educator to create this foundational text on Guided Inquiry, a dynamic, integrated approach to teaching curriculum content, information literacy, and strategies for learning. Grounded in Kuhlthau's Information Search Process from her classic text *Seeking Meaning* and built on solid professional practice, this innovative team approach inspires students to gain deeper understandings and higher order thinking using the rich resources of the school library, the community and the wider world. This book provides the vital tools for educators to create collaborative environments where students experience school learning and real life meshed in integral ways—learning in the 21st century. (Amazon.com)

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Facilitator: Teresa Hoppe

August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope. **R.J. Palacio** has called her debut novel "a meditation on kindness" —indeed, every reader will come away with a greater appreciation for the simple courage of friendship. Auggie is a hero to root for. (Amazon.com)

Two members of the FWCD 5th grade class wrote letters about the impact of this book which will be printed in the next edition.

What the Best College Teachers Do by Ken Bain

Facilitator: Steve Stackhouse

What makes a great teacher great? Who are the professors students remember long after graduation? This book, the conclusion of a fifteen-year study of nearly one hundred college teachers in a wide variety of fields and universities, offers valuable answers for all educators. (Amazon.com)

The Making of Americans: Democracy and Our Schools by E.D. Hirsch

Facilitator: Spencer Smith

Why, after decades of commissions, reforms, and efforts at innovation, do our schools continue to disappoint us? In this comprehensive and thought-provoking book, educational theorist E. D. Hirsch, Jr. offers a masterful analysis of how American ideas about education have veered off course, what we must do to right them, and most importantly *why*. He argues that the core problem with American education is that educational theorists, especially in the early grades, have for the past sixty years rejected academic content in favor of "child-centered" and "how-to" learning theories that are at odds with how children really learn. The result is failing schools and widening inequality, as only children from content-rich (usually better-off) homes can take advantage of the schools' educational methods. (Amazon.com)

The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains by Nicholas Carr

Facilitator: Sharon Hamilton

"Is Google making us stupid?" When Nicholas Carr posed that question, in a celebrated *Atlantic Monthly* cover story, he tapped into a well of anxiety about how the Internet is changing us. He also crystallized one of the most important debates of our time: As we enjoy the Net's bounties, are we sacrificing our ability to read and think deeply? (Amazon.com)

The Republic of Noise: The Loss of Solitude in Schools and Culture by Diana Senechal

Facilitator: Jim Aldridge

In *Republic of Noise*, Diana Senechal confronts a culture that has come to depend on instant updates and communication at the expense of solitude. Where once it was common wisdom

that the chatter of the present, about the present, could not always grasp the present, today we treat "real time" as though it were the only real time. Schools emphasize rapid group work and fragmented activity, not the thoughtful study of complex subjects. The Internet offers contact with others throughout the day and night; we lose the ability to be apart, even in our minds. Yet solitude does not vanish; it is part of every life. It plays an essential role in literature, education, democracy, relationships, and matters of conscience. Throughout its analyses and argument, the book calls not for drastic changes but for a subtle shift: an attitude that honors solitude without descending into dogma. Outspoken, lyrical, and unassuming, Senechal's book dismantles the "groupthink" that pervades our lives. (Amazon.com).

The Parents We Mean To Be: How Well Intentioned Adults Undermine Children's Moral and Emotional Development by Richard Weissbourd

Facilitator: Michael Parker

A wake-up call for a national crisis in parenting--and a deeply helpful book for those who want to see their own behaviors as parents with the greatest possible clarity.

Harvard psychologist Richard Weissbourd argues incisively that parents—not peers, not television—are the primary shapers of their children's moral lives. And yet, it is parents' lack of self-awareness and confused priorities that are dangerously undermining children's development. (Amazon.com)